skilled and technical manpower in the agriculture sector, a scheme of Agri-clinics and Agri-Business Centres has been taken up. Besides, a scheme of Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension is being implemented to provide information to farmers on matters related to agriculture production. In order to help the farmers in tackling problems relating to pest attack, plant disease, use of inputs, a scheme, a scheme of 'Kissan Call Centres' is being implemented. A new centrally sponsored scheme entitled "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" was launched in March, 2005 with the objective to making extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by way of promoting new institutional arrangements namely Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) for technology dissemination particularly at District level and below.

National Food Security Mission: Government of India, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has approved the launching of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission (NFSM)" to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses during the eleventh Five year Plan. The NFSM has three components *viz.* NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses. The salient aspect of the Mission is that it has been conceptualized to target those districts which lower productivity than the State average productivity but have the potential to augment the productivity and production of the three crops, i.e. rice, wheat and pulses. The scheme is operational. The Plan outlay for National Food Security Mission is Rs. 4500 crore for the Eleventh Plan period.

The following districts of Naxalite affected States are covered under NFSM-rice (Khammam, Gaya, Rajnandgaon, Surguja, Gumla, Hazaribagh, West Singhbhum, Gudchiroli, Deogarh, Malkangiri and Sonebhadra); NFSM-wheat (Jamui, Rohtas, Balaghat and Sonebhadra) and NFSM-pulses (Khammam, Aurangabad, Rajnandgaon and Surguja).

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under State Plan: Department has launched a new scheme "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana" (RKVY) for its implementation during the 11th Five Year Plan with a Plan Outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore. The scheme envisages a quantifiable increase in agriculture and allied sector production, productivity and farm income and reduction in yield gaps. The scheme was approved by the CCEA on 16th August, 2007. The operational guidelines of the scheme have also been issued. The new scheme is providing flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing Agriculture and allied sector schemes.

Centre to match state funds in New Farm Policy

1574. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIJESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

whether worried over stagnation in farming sector, the Prime Minister mooted a proposal seeking additional Central investment in an attempt to boost Public investment and encourage States to increase outlays on agricultural and allied activities;

whether a proposal containing the road map of enhancing investment in this sector to allocate more funds, with the Centre pitching in by pumping in more money, has been drafted by his Ministry;

to what extent Government has agreed for adopting this proposal; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful in improving farm productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the Resolution adopted on 29.05.2007 by the National Development Council (NDC), a new State Plan scheme of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for agriculture & allied sectors, namely, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKV Y) has been launched during 2007-08 with an envisaged outlay of Rs. 25,000/- crore during the 11th Five Year Plan.

The broad objective of RKVY is to incentives the States to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors in the 11th Five Year Plan.

The new scheme requires the States to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans and maintain, or increase, the share of expenditure in agariculture and allied sectors in the State's total Plan expenditure. The allocation of funds to he States is based on the net un-irrigated area, gross State agricultural product to be attained by the end of the 11th Plan, and increase in the State Plan expenditure in agriculture and allied sectors.

The ACA would be made available to the States as 100% grant.

The new scheme provides the States flexibility and autonomy in the process of planning and execution of scheme as per the local agro-climatic conditions to improve farm productivity and production.

Survey of drought affected areas

† 1575. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that a survey of all drought affected areas of the country has been made;

if so, the details of the amount of financial assistance being given to the drought affected States, State-wise; and

by when the said amount of financial assistance would be provided to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In view of deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2007 (1.6.2007 to 30.9.2007), the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have declared parts of the State as drought affected. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought from the funds available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Additional assistance is considered from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the laid down procedure on submission of a memorandum by the State Government. * No memoraridum for assistance from NCCF for the current drought has so far been received from the Governments of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. In response to the memorandum for drought relief submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking assistance of Rs. 1548.91 crores from the NCCF, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation. Further action will be taken in accordance with the procedure for assistance from the NCCF.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.